

Village of Shorewood Hills Parks Committee

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Monday, October 3, 2022 - 5:30 PM

Location: Heiden Haus 3100 Harvard Drive

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM by Chair Barford.
 - a. **Roll Call:**
 - i. **Committee Members:** Chair Carol Barford, Roma Lenehan, Nancy Heiden, Kathie Brock, Jan Tymorek, Jeremy Rogers and David Boutwell.
 - ii. **Others in Attendance:** Village Forester Adam Lohrmann, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Chrissy Kahl, Mary Janet Wellensick, Garden Club Liaison and the following Village resident:
 1. Michael Von Schneidemesser, 3555 Tally Ho Ln., joined the meeting at 5:57pm.
 - b. **Compliance with Open Meeting Law:** Kahl confirmed that the meeting had been properly noticed.
2. **Approve minutes from September 6, 2022, Parks Committee meeting:**
 - a. Motion by Heiden, second by Brock, to approve the September 6, 2022, draft minutes. Rogers abstained; Motion carried (6-0).
3. **Monthly Forester's Report:** Lohrmann reviewed his report and answered questions. Some of the discussion included questions regarding tree planting and tree evaluations.
4. **Discussion of Bird City 2023 Planning:** Boutwell presented. The committee decided they would like to renew the membership for 2023. The renewal fee is \$175.00. There was a donation last year for the renewal fee, Boutwell will check to see if this can be covered by donation again for 2023. Boutwell also offered to complete the application. Heiden offered to hire a lecturer for an educational bird appreciation event and will donate to cover the cost. A proclamation to recognize will need to go to the Board of Trustees in November or December.
5. **Discussion of Lake Mendota Drive Bridge project effects on McKenna Park vegetation:** Barford reviewed this item. The DOT approved plans are out for bid now and are awarded by the DOT, not the Village. The seed mixes and ground cover the DOT would use are of some concern. Boutwell offered to write up the concerns and suggestions. The committee hopes to have the opportunity to address the concerns when the time comes. The committee would like to share these with Administrator Eveland so they can be addressed with the DOT or contractor. Perhaps, the committee could come up with a seed mix that can be overlaid and may ask for donations to cover the cost.

6. **Announcements, questions and/or consideration items for future agendas (no discussion or action to be taken under this item):**

Barford announced that Administrator Eveland felt strongly that Forester Adam Lohrmann be the Weed Commissioner. Lohrmann agreed that he is comfortable in taking on this role.

Heiden will set the date for the Bird City appreciation educational event and report back at the next meeting.

Future agenda item: Lohrmann to give an update on spring tree planting and tree replacement for 2023.

7. **Next meeting date:** Monday, November 14, 2022. Barford will discuss with Administrator Eveland whether this meeting can be in-person.

8. **Adjourn:** Motion by Rogers, second by Heiden to adjourn. Motion carried (7-0). The meeting adjourned at 6:54pm.

Respectfully submitted by Chrissy Kahl, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer

VILLAGE OF SHOREWOOD HILLS
Forestry and Parks

Report for October, 2022: Adam Lohrmann, Forester

Overview- This past month, the focus of the Forestry and Parks Department has turned toward fall clean-up and planning of goals for next year. The extended season of mild temperatures prevented an early start to oak pruning and removal work, necessitated continued watering of recent plantings, and contributed to a second late bloom of some perennial wildflowers.

Thanks- Many thanks to those who have assisted with Forestry/Parks and Garden Club projects in recent months. Countless volunteer hours have been devoted to planting, weeding, watering, and more throughout the Village. Project organizers, fundraisers, advisors, and others have contributed much to preserving the beauty and ecological richness of this community. All of this work is much appreciated.

Invasive Species Management- Weeds targeted for removal throughout our parks and green spaces over the last month include: crown vetch, goutweed, leafy spurge, Canada thistle, oriental bittersweet, pokeweed, burdock, stickseed, etc.

Bike Path and Marina Access- Significant time was devoted to weeding, pruning, and debris removal along the west end of the bike path, adjacent to the railroad corridor and Blackhawk Country Club grounds, as well as the access road to the Marina, just north of the golf course.

Rain Gardens- Fall clean-out of the rain gardens is underway. This process is completed in stages to allow desirable late-blooming perennials the opportunity to flower and disperse seed. Bumblebees and other insects were observed on flowers as late as November 10th this year. Many of the rain gardens will require more extensive sediment removal and re-planting of native species in the coming years, beginning with the Heiden Haus rain garden in spring, 2023.

Garden Club- Fall clean-out of the street medians and beds around Village Hall has begun. Some plant material and seed heads will be left to provide soil nutrients, pollinator habitat, seed stock, bird feed, and winter interest.

Seed Collection- Seed has been collected from a variety of native plant species found in the Village's parks and green spaces, including: coneflower, gray-headed coneflower, bee balm, prairie blazing star, butterfly milkweed, stiff goldenrod, and little bluestem. This seed will be dispersed in prepared areas of our parks and natural areas. Native seed donations and suggested locations for seeding are welcome.

Tree Pruning and Removals- Pruning of trees and shrubs continued as needed throughout the Village. Several dead/hazard trees are slated for removal in the coming weeks. 4 Freeman maples in the stormwater infiltration beds on the east end of Marshall Ct. are slated for removal this fall/winter. These beds are being regraded to correct drainage problems, and will be re-planted with replacement trees, grasses, and forbs.

Tree Planting Plans- Plans for tree planting in 2023 are in development. All existing tree stumps slated for grinding in the spring have been inventoried, and at least 13 of these locations are considered good candidates for replacement trees. Additional locations for tree planting throughout the Village have also been identified, including multiple sites around the west end of Locust Dr.

MMSD Replacement Trees- The Bruce Company plans to install replacement trees in spring 2023 for residents on Tally Ho whose trees were impacted by the Sewerage District project.

Of Concern- 1.) The road/sidewalk construction project currently underway on University Ave. is a joint project between the City of Madison and the Village of Shorewood Hills. Sidewalk has now been installed on the east end of the project site, and the footprint of the sidewalk extends into the critical root zone of many of the trees lining the avenue. Possible negative impacts to the vitality of these trees will continue to be monitored.

2.) After consultation with a reputable tree pathologist, our current understanding is that multiple factors may be contributing to the decline of many oak trees throughout the Village, particularly the red oaks. Successive years of below average rainfall and higher than average temperatures have likely caused stress to these trees, which already contend with additional challenges such as limited root zones, impacted soil, insufficient nutrient replenishment, etc. In combination, these stressors can make oaks vulnerable to infestation by the two-lined chestnut borer, clearwing borer, flatheaded wood borer, and others. Root rot, oak wilt, and spongy moth have also been observed on several oaks in the Village. Treatments are available to address many of these issues, but they can be costly (\$400-\$500 per tree) and often need to be repeated every 1-2 years. Continued observation in 2023 will determine whether treatment of particular, high-value oaks will be necessary.



Photos by Adam Lohrmann, taken on November 10, 2022